TO-DAY'S REPUBLIC 1. Printed in TWO PARTS.

NINETY SECOND YEAR.

ST. LOUIS, MO., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1900.

PRICE Outside St. Louis, One Cent.

RUSSIAN CRUISER IN PERSIAN GULF.

Britain Dispatches Tigo Warships to Investigate a Mys. terious Move.

CZAR SEEKS STRATEGIC BASE.

Shah's Court Scou to He Under Russia's Control-Activity on Afghanistan Border-French Move in Africa.

SPECIAL BY CARLE

Botthay, Feb. 22-(Copyright, Ben by W. Hearsti-Consplicable excitoment been enseed by the grace or the arrival of a Russian cruiser at Dunder Albus; on the Persian Guif. She is appleaded to be : large vessel, but her same is unknown. The British worship Persons has a me to Bunder Abbes with the gunbout Spains. codness prescrib, rewing no the repea set the Afghartstate from the All Little editory have find their have cannot be of the officers who were proceeding t Emiliana were activity stories while win

barking on the mail steamon. The Times of India assess the probatulity of a Russian advance on Heart will the Amer dies, but welcomes Lord lie or heres to her pledges to the Americ Wis toper, however, urget the recovery for a or declaration of British points in th Perstan Guit,

What It Menus.

This visit of a fluence warring to ill entrapes to the Persian Guif would not be significant if it were not for the unwented metricity of the Euselian army in the all restions of Herat and 5 r the treaty past in the between Bursan and Person.
This treaty in effect turned over to the foun bank of Persons a branch of the State

Bank of Persia oil the currents receipts of Persia except those from per's oil the lives and the currents receipts of the standard for a latest that One of the stipplettens of this greaty was that Fersia should at once pay off her outstanding dobts. The built of the latter are due to England, and the receipts of the

due to Emiliand, and the receible of the Persian Gulf perts are mothanged to her as a milky for these old brans. There are only two important morts on the Persian Gulf-Berkers, near he head, and Bunder Abbas, at its entrope. When Persian shall have that ber delet to England she will be in a persistent as the Gunder control of her mild ports, for the treaty adjusted on the rich in a persistent and other foreign debts.

The conservace of victors because to be that the conservace of the beauties to be that the condition of the beauties of the entirely at Rossia's mercy in the minorial ste future.

The fact that the bashow has now less accomplished by the a proposed as unlequable proof of regions's complex best of influence at the Shaha cont." The Shah is to yish St. Peterborg either

The Shan is to visit St. Peterborg either in March or April on his way to the Pecis Exposition, and it may be that this visit of a Russian watship is a part of the attraction and its exidently districted, but is determined to find our what is going on hence the dispatch of two warships to four-born them.

CZAR'S REPORTED ATTITUDE.

London, Feb. 23. The St. Petersburg corts spondent of the Dudy Telegraph mays: "General Kunspatkin, Russian Mir for War, who is a strong Hoer sympathizer responsible for all the recent nevernents of Russian troops in the Kushk district. He obtained the approval of the Military Cognell for a plan to seize Herst, and he thereupon submitted it to the Cant, surgestithat it would be a good time, while fire bind's hands were tied in South Africa, to execute the plan, which he said could be done without a hitch.

"To his surprise, the Cair declined to give any countenance to any movement in favor of utilizing Great Britain's difficultion. His Majorty suit:

"It is my intention to maintain the stricted neutrility through the war, notwithstanding the display of popular sympathics neward the Room.

This is buildingont to a victory for the Bussian Foreign Onice of ant Muraviett was atroughy appeared to the subsence of Genend Kampatkin, where position is reduced-

INDIAN TROOPS FOR EGYPT. SPECIAL BY CABLE.

London, Feb. 3. Copyright, 180, by W. B. Hearst.)-The rep rt that England has erd red several Indian reguments to Europe is confirmed to-day. As told in previous dispatcace to The Republic, England in so weakened her forces in Egypt on acmt of the South African war, that she fears France will take advantage of the situation. So she is hurrying helian troops

MAY GO TO SOUTH APRICA. Calcutta, Feb. 23. - The Indian regimen ordered to Egypt include a contingent of

Sikh cavalry. It is believed that the real TO ADVANCE ON MOROCCO.

Paris, Feb. 21.-A French exposition to be hag formed at South turn for the esteroid purpose of occupying this and so make ecure catavan nouse into Morocco, It is believed here, however, that this is on preliminary to a general advance into

All the French troops in Algeria are being and guns and atminument are being sent from Touton.

AMBITION OF COLUMBUS, O.

Offers Headquarters to Democratic National Committee.

Washington, Feb. 21. A committee of liven batter opposition from the Reput-rozament bemogram from Commiss. O

prominent Democrate from Columbus, O., has been in Washington seeking the influetice of the Democratic National Commis tee to make Columbus the national headquarters during the coming campaign. It is firmly believed by many of the party leaders that Ohio will be the great battle ground in this year's fight, and that it will be, therefore, for the best party interest to have the hendquerters in that State. It would be a departure from all pre-cedents to establish national hendquarters in a small city, but a still farther argu-ment advanced in favor of it is that it will remove the scene of overstions from the

GOEBEL'S SUCCESSOR.

Special Election to Fill the Vacancy in the Senate.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL. Louisville, Ky., Feb. 21.—President Carter of the Senate to-night called a special election to be held March 5 to choose a suc- | northward,



LORD ROBERTS'S CAMPAIGN.

The British purposed divense in the citality of Kondon's Band empired Kondon's Band, in the above maps, where they are finding him, as are interested to distribute the distribute of the bank Borr re-entercoments.

TO-DAY'S REPUBLIC.

colder in southeast portion. Sunday tair and warmer; brisk northwesterby winds, becoming variable.

For Hinois-Fair and colder Saturday, with cold wave in southern and eastern portions; high northwesterly winds, Sanday fair. For Arkansas-Fair and much cold-

er saturday, with cold wave in southern and eastern purtiens; high northerly winds. Sanday fair and

PART L

I. Three Good Buttles Rayme to South Airca Russian Crissor in Pentian Cuts.

Republishe Shirting at City Hell

Congress Will Investigate its rate

Cilicona Lucen Ehree Trans-Some Takes Tay good Care Indian - Class I in Chira Inquire Anti-Temporariots Attack McKinds

St. Lenne Aid for Horn. Hoke Smith for Brans.

The Enthusia Principle of the ONE State the end of

5. Sporting None. Bass Track Rends Walcott Wen from Checasia Will Affect Positroom Raids.

Revolutions Oppose Partly Block Bill. Acres on Currency Birth Chicago Board of Trade Attack t

Heavy Trade in Cotton

Sunday S-for I Sersion. S. She Scela to Regard Jewalet in Prival.

Democratic Clubs in Meet in Indiana; Central Part Bails ad

St. Mary's College Deliate. Trude Beviens. Fell to Mis Death in Oil Power Young

Condition of State Earlies PART II.

4. Postmosters Assume Kentucky Source Leaders

New Delaration of Longsephere Sapler in a Police Court, Charge of Counterlesing,

Postmirster Teak a Halde 2. Boyers Tell Why They Like St. Louis Tunner May Quit Pight on Callon, No Clew to Slaver of Harry Korbler, Waken From the Hiver, Governor Turner Vers. Bl.

2. Church News and Sunday Services, Young People's Societies, Police Thought His Was in the Works

5. Biver Telegrams Wenther Report

Transfers of Bealty.

6. Grain and Other Markets

7. Financial News.

S. Sleeves and Other Details of Fashion Vogue of Tank Patence, Sanshine and Freih Air. Parhion in Handherchiefs. His Ideal Weman

Avenith of tild Trinity

Wemen of the Transvas!

The Family Boart,

er of Senater Gothel, who resigned before being sworn in as they enough the fore being sworn in as they enough the Kenton County Car, allow Computing will meet at Covington to morrow night and will be made at Covington to morrow night and will be made in Senator Gorder's law office will have no appealt in Mesers, Joseph and Arthur Gordel will selp direct the fight for him. Ex-Mayor Rhineck of Covington had been urged to make the race, but he dealthed not to appear in mean. As Mr. Harbeson will stand as Arrepresentative of the late Governor Gordel, backet by his brothers, butter appearing from the Render.

RETREAT TOWARD COLESBERG. Boers' Cape Colony Forces Have

Been Thinned Out.

Arundel, Thursday, Feb. 22, Evening. colonel Henderson's squadron of the limit killings, with two gons, r connoitered west ward to Monfontein Farm, on the direct rend to Colesberg and Hanover. They go close to the Boets in the kills and were fired on. They quickly got their guns in position and shelled the hills,

Eventually the Boers were driven out, retiring northward, when they came under tire of two other gans, supported by company of Australians, near the British western post on Dragoon Hill. Colonel Henderson proceeded to Monifontein Farm, which he now occupies. The British patrols from Hanover also came out that fer. The Beers are not in great force. They have been persistently followed all day long and have withdrawn a considerable distance

LEADING TOPICS REQUISITION-SPLITTING **ELIMINATES COMPETITION.**

Commissioner F. C. Meier's Method of **Buying City Supplies Is in Violation** of the Ordinance.

are through the officer in charge thereof, shall make a requisition on the amount to be purchased shall exceed the sum of one . delibra (Illia for any one article, and when the delivery of the same . is not to be continuous, the Commissioner of Supplies shall advertise for propossile for the furnishing of such articles, and the award on said proposals

This is the law which is now being violated by Supply Commissioner Fred C. Meier, the head of the purchasing branch of the city government last spring by Mayor

along I Assembly for the purchase of city supplies have been handled with a teck-lesses which is characteristic of City Hall restands; that element of competition which is plainly provided for by the law being viriated by splitting regulations into small orders. Even this promotion has not always been taken by the Supply Comover. Venefices on the with the City Auditor show that numerous articles, where the cost exceeded first have been purchased without even a pretense of securing pro-

REQUISITION SPLITTING.

		platement of dry goods ordered fro for several of the city institutions,	
	ditting merhod in veguer		
Stept &	Article, The years continued flatted	\$ 69.69 81.94	Poorbouse Poorbouse Poorbouse

Sept. D. 125 Firsts extless flamed	Poorthouse Warkhouse
Total	Poorhouse Poorhouse
Total	City Hospital
Total	Poorhouse Poorhouse Peorhouse
Total	Workhouse Workhouse
Tetal Rule	**

ter, 4 820 yards to king Total
In explanation of the foregoing flaures it may be stated that in each instance the
sit water purchased at the same price.
Unity to September the September that of the Poorhouse notified the Supply Commissioner that a winter's saredy of blankets was needed at that institution. The resuit was that the goods were ordered in detached lots of the same firm, Max Schulz, On September II seventy pairs of blankets were delivered by Schulz at a cost of \$12.88. Four days bett file pairs were delivered at a cost of \$43.75. Both orders were of

tition. ANOTHE	R EXAMPLE.
In the purchase of looseour for the pital the same method of eplitting regula-	inmater of the Poorhouse and the City Hes- tions has prevailed, as follows:
Darke Article Options Communication Communication	15.75 Poorhouse 15.90 Poorhouse 15.90 Poorhouse 25.90 Poorhouse 20.90 Poorhouse 20.9
Total tetalor 2 6 pairs of broghes tetalor 2 22 pairs of broghes tetalor 2 22 pairs of broghes tetalor 2 35 pairs of broghes tetalor 2 35 pairs of broghes tetalor 2 35 pairs of broghes	1 6.59 Poorhouse

November 5: 25 pairs of lawy slipers, November 5: 25 pairs of lawy slipers, November 5: 25 pairs of bayy slipers, November 5: 26 pairs of bayy slipers, November 5: 36 pairs of bayy slipers.

	there has been no check to these is a problem which the Compiroller but weakly evad- ed several weeks ago, when he suid: "Mr. Meier is a nice young man."			
ı	NO COMPETITION OBTAINED.			
П				
Н	Further evidence of the deliberate violation of the law by the Supply Commission-			
	er is contained in the following statement of goods which have been purchased for the			
ļ	city without any aftempt to secure compelition through the letting of contracts:			
	October E-50 mattrestes \$ 25.00 Poerhouse			
3	September 16-a six-barrel dough-mixer			
3	October 5 26 yatus extra heavy black shorting 156.00 Poorhouse			
1	October 21-114 pairs women's choes			
4	October 31-100 pairs mon's linet jeans coats			
1	Getoler ii 130 pairs jeans pouts			
1				
4				
4	July 13-2t curtwheels			
1				
4	July 7 to pairs men's allipers			
1	July 10 700 yards gauge in 100-yard rolls			
1	September 27-One extra heavy range			
1	September 2 and yable galage			
1	July 7-7 pairs table lines			
1	September 18 - 17 single blankets			
1	September 27-150 pairs blankets			
ł	Sentember 25-30 pairs blankets			
1	September 28-1/8 white spreads			
н	the state of the s			

SHOULD FORTIFY THE CANAL. British Paper Says America Ought

to Do So

SPECIAL BY CABLE. London, Feb. 21.-(Copyright, 1999, by W.

R. Hearst.)-The Speciator, which repre-

the canal and its entrances into hestile ports. There is only one way to secure absolute heurality of the canal-to place it in the hands of a Power strong enough to enforce that neutrality against all comers. "That America should be the Power's That America should be the Power is the most fortunate for us, for barring the possibilities of civil war, which must exist sents the highest and here lititish opinion, often reflecting official views, says;

"British into rests are entirely on the side of the fortification of the Nicaraguan Canal by the United States. Any one who takes the trouble to think the matter out will see this at once. What we want is complete and absolute neutralization of the canal.

"We want our ships to be able to pass

freely through the canal in case of war

with any continental Power. We want to

RAGING IN SOUTH AFRICA. GENERAL WAR NEWS. Kitchener Striking at Cronje,

THREE GREAT BATTLES ARE

While Roberts Fights De Wet's Re-enforcements.

ENGAGEMENTS ON NORTH OF THE TUGELA.

London Anxiously Awaiting Results-British Lost 146 Killed Last Sunday—Cronje's Wife Urging Surrender.

BY MILTON V. SNYDER.

SPECIAL BY CABLE London, Saturday, Feb 21 - Copyright, 500, by the New York Herald Company's Persistent rumors were current in London throughout yesterday that General Cronje had surrendered, with 7.00 men, but up to his moment-2 a, m -no official news of my such event has been received by the War Office. But if Cronje is in the posttion described ander the fire of six field batteries, one Howitzer and a battery of * baral guns-his situation must be des raite, for he has to stand up to the prees of forty-seven nuns, many of them

Thus total probably has greatly forceased ince Wednesday, as, even without horse artiflery, Roberts should have ninety or a hendred puns available. New fatteries arriving at the Cape, we may presume, ar orses cannot be fit for hard work. Unless eganled as waled

the morning express admiration for the smaring berdem of Crease and his men. who, cornered by Hoberto's stratery, are Ring such a splendid fight. To the west ld guns, bolding all sid away; yet they ht stubbornly on against the "recincks." it; store wagons flaming around them, that must be their transport deci-

elf's fire to justify their con-From the other spheres of warfare the we to hand is inconclusive. The Boers laim a success last Tuesday on the Tuccha-Instell troops, trying to enous the olver, but Hobertz, from information of later date with reset Yet no know that the passage of the river was suestully accomplished. Still, it is quite uncertain whether Buller has a large force Wednesday the British troops appear to losing light against such olds. have advanced very slewly and in open. "Englishmen feel asmething like pride in remounts. The necessity of rapid movever, did little damage. precads at Baller's heasquarters that the cled with a chain of fire from rifle, Maxim

their entire force. White has made a settle and that he has age captured some warons of the retreating Boers giving way both at Arundel and

It is supposed the Cape Colony Roers are rushing to the nid of their hard-pressed smrades on the Modder, but, from all as ounts, it will be impossible for them to give material assistance, for Roberts, with all of French's cavalry, seems casily able to both hold Cronle closely invested and drive off in detail such re-enforcements s appear in the neighborhood of Pourle-

TwWet, one of the Haer Generals in charge of re-enforcements, telegraphed Preterm on Tuesday that he expeted a hig fight on Wednesday at Petrusberg, fifting miles southeast of Koodoo's Rand, Robert must have 10,000 to 15,000 Boers in front of him at Petrusberg and as the conditions of this war have hitherto led to engagement prolonged for several days, it is just possible that side by side with the battle at Paarsie berg, in which Kitchener is holding Crea; n his grip, Roberts has been having a sec end long fight with DeWet.

The absence of news from Buller also suggests that a battle is raging on the Tugela and a battle there, the London critics agree s required by the situation.

BRITISH LOSSES SUNDAY.

London, Feb. 22.- The official report give 16 men killed at Paardeberg Drift Sunday, February D. including sixty-three High-

enders and eighteen Canadians, TRGES CROSJE TO VIELD,

SPECIAL BY CARLE. Lendon, Saturday, Feb. 23.-6 opyright, 1900, by the New York Herald Company.)-A special cable to the Daily News from

"Cronje's wife, our prisoners say, is urg ing him to surrender and save the liver

OFF OF SHEGE RATIONS. Kimberley. Feb. 23.-Lord Methuen ar

rived here Tuesday. He will act as admin-strator of Kimberley District, extending outhward to Orange River. onel Kekewich will remain in com-

The issue of siege soup ceases to-day. There are sixty-four Boer prisoners here BULLER TAKES FORT WYLIE.

Colense, Natal, Wednesday, Feb. 21, via Chieveley, Feb. 21.—The British have ressed the Tugela ever a pontoen northward of Hlangwana, and now occupy Fort Wylie. While the naval brigade was bornparding Grobler's Kloof, the Boers' big Cremot replying yesterday, after the o cupation of Colenso, a small party of Thorneyeroft's Horse crossed the river, but vere driven back by fire from the trenches The Hoer guns are still shelling the relieving force from the hills south of Lady smith; but the impression is spreading that they are merely covering the retreat of the entire Boor force.

General Buller's casualties Tuesday, Pebrunry 20, and Wednesday, February 21,

Killed-Captain Crealeck and Lieutenants Keith-Falconer and Parry of the Somer-setshire, Light Infantry, and nine men. Wounded-Six officers and ninety-sever

TRANSVAAL ALARMED.

"Is is a symptom of the present trend of

events that storekeepers in the Free State have wired here stopping the forwarding of "I learn that the Transvaal Governmen

has five millions in builton at Pretoria

ADMIRATION FOR CRONJE. London, Feb. 21, 4:15 n. m.-Mr. Haffou appositived in the House of Commens a half past 12 this morning that no further news regarding General Cronje had been red by artiflery or mad with fright and received by the Government. He had sent hitrat; they thems twee fighting turnings, a to the War Office during the hour, and he asserted that nothing had come to found in the night."

General Crouje, therefore, is presumably and assert that they drove back a lady of pinced upon the three days' silence of Lord River Thursday morning, says:

Yet no one sees how it is humonly posible, indging from the descriptions of his last rolled the Boer lasger was a mass of situation Wednesday morning, for him to flames and the Boers were seen making resist so long. Great Britain does not shelter into the trenches. efore him or only a small floer tear guard, withhold admitation for the valor of a

order. They were greeted with heavy shrape ("compe, even as a foe," says the Daily ment, which was grasped by Lord Roberts, nel lire from Grobler's Kloof, which, how- News, "In a position covering only a has altered the whole campaign." The impression square mile, hemmed in on all sides, loers are merely covering the redrement of and howitzer, played on by deadly lyddite bursting in its own sickly green light, his The British gune at Ladysmith have been hastily built treaches enfinded by a turned on the Boer positions, to prepare the stream of lead sweeping down the river way for the advance of the relieving force from the north bank, General Cronje still at Colemso. It is supposed that General elects to light. It is a magnificent cour-

The British cavalry patrols sent by Lord locts. In the north of Cape Colony the Methuen north of Kimberley discovered the British advance seems to finve begun, the Roe's concentrating, whether for offense

or defense is simply conjecture. The Boers seem to be retiring from Gen ral Gatacre's front at Sterkstroom in order

o re-enforce the Pree Staters. WILKINSON SUMS UP.

London, Feb. 33.-Mr. Spenser Wilkinson, n the Morning Post says. "From Boer disputches we might infer that General DeWet has gathered a considerable force of scattered Baers at Petrusburg, about fifteen miles southeast of Koodoor's Rand, with a view of relieving Gen-

"It is probable that a battle is also rag-

was reported in London night that Cronje, with 7,000 men, had
 surrendered, but at an early boar this morning the report had not been .

The last advices from Paardeburg • relate to the fighting of Tuesday. • At that time Cronje was surrounded • by British artillery, which was with-in 1.00 and 2.00 yards' range. Forty-seven common were firing lyddite •

day at Paurdeburg Drift were 146 \(\) killed. He does not enumerate the \(\) wounded.

Disputches from Pretoria make no mention of the serious position of • Cronje, saying that his losses have • . been light and that the present move- ment will be beneficial to the Federal
 forces. Dispatches from other Boer The Transval Government is reported to commanders fighting the British be seriously alarmed at the defeat of the along the Modder say that they are

their famous General, Course. The news-papers are most refrent, but the Standard.

The news from Natal is inconpapers are most reticent, but the Standard and Diggers' News claims that General Cronje's movement is beneficial as "it increases mobility of the burghers' army, calabing it to conduct more effective operations on a carefully prepared plan."

There are persistent reports that the sent of the Free State Government is being moved to Wynburg. It is said that 6.00 burghers have been sent from Ladysmuth to Bloemfonton.

CONFLICTING NEWS.

London, Feb. 21. The Lorenzo Marquez correspondent of the Paily News telegraphing Treeding systs:

"We are in a state of doubt and anxiety regarding events in the Free State. We hear that the telegraph wires between General Cronje and Bloemfontein have been severed, and the news from the front is conflicting.

The news from Natal is inconclusive. A dispatch from Lorenzo Marquez, dated yesterday, says that Buller that the Free State to oppose Roberts. A dispatch from Pietermaritzburg says that Buller is in the vicinity of Pieter's, which is nearer Ladysmith than he has been at any time since he began his campaign.

A large Russian cruiser has entered the Persian Guif and two British warships have been dispatched thither. The news is significant, as it is known that Russia is seeking to force Persia to give up a port on the Persian Guif.

alarm. It is quite possible that after the fight Lord Roberts may be engaged in pursuing the Hoers, which would take him away from the telegraph wire.

"Possibly a big fight is proceeding. Lord Roberts may be lighting from 19,000 to 15,000 Boers. This would account for the long silence, as all experience has proved that the battles occupy some days. The Boers in his desperation may have risked a sortie

A MASS OF FLAMES.

London, Feb. 21.-A correspondent of the Daily News, telegraphing from Modder "As I le's 'koodoo's Rand this morning, a at; she and rife fire was in progress.

"Too much stress cannot be laid upon the importance of sending cargoes of horses for

The Duily News asserts that the foregoing dispatch refers to Wednesday morn-More likely, however, it refers to

Tuesday. The Daily Chronicle has the following dispatch from Kimberley, dated Febru-

"Cavalry patrols that went north to capture the Boer 109-pounder report that the weapon has been taken beyond Riverton Station, drawn by thirty-two oxen. The British cavalry say that they saw Boer parties, but they did not go beyond Riveron, for fear of being cut off. They fearned, however, that the Transvaalers were being

"A party of Boers fired into the British "Pifty thousand pounds of ammunition

concentrated on the border to the north.

was captured at Magersfontein. 'Cecil Rhodes will leave for England shortly.

"W. E. Chapman, with thirty men, held out for weeks against the Boers at Otto Kopje Mine, until relieved from Kimber-

CONTRADICTORY NEWS COMES FROM NATAL,

Chieveley, Feb. 21-The main body of the | erts. We estimate that about 6000 have

Boers has fled, evidently with the object of stemming the advance of Lord Roberts. BULLER'S RETREAT REPORTED. SPECIAL BY CABLE.

Lerenzo Marquez, Feb. 23.-(Copyright, 566, by the New York Herald Company.)-Pighting continues around Petrusberg and Kimberley. The general result is yet un-

The British forces sept across the Tugela River to the relief of Ladysmith have

again retired to Cole FIGHTING NEAR PHETER'S. SPECIAL BY CARLE.

500, by the New York Herald Company.)-A dispatch to the Daily Telegraph, dated hieveley Camp, Wednesday, says: "The Boers are now posted on strong, high ground, midway between the Tugela nd Ladysmith. Our guns are busy shellng them. It is only a question of time

London, Saturday, Feb. 2t-Copyright,

when they must give way, "It is reported that General White made sortie from Ladysmith yesterday and aptured a large number of wagons, beinging to the enemy. Heavy firing is gong on in the direction of Ludysmith, ither on the part of White or the enemy."

Pietermaritzburg, Thursday, says: The Boers are believed to have either slandened the investment of Ladysmith or aken up a position north of the town. The enemy's rear guard opposed to our adance on being driven from one position fied to the next kopje and opened fire on the vicinity of Pieter's this morning, Buller's advance being opposed by both big guns and rifle fire."

BOERS TREKING WESTWARD. London, Feb. 23.-The Daily Chronicle has

the following dispatch from Ladysmith, dated Saturday, February 17: "All day men gather, on the Convent Hill and try to see General Huller's shells burst- it is added, are in progress for the forms

and try to see central range a same ourself in the distance. The siege has been inexpressibly tedious for the last fortnight.

"Boar camps have disappeared from the old positions within the last few days, and large parties with wagons are treking west-

Lorenzo Marquez, Delagoa Bay, Feb. 22 going to resist the advance of Lord Rob- ers,

"Near the foot of Bulwana the Boeis

have been constructing a work near the

river, possibly a dam. We can see a figure

Estimates Call for £27,522,600 the

like an old lady in a red petticoat directing BRITAIN'S NAVAL BUDGET.

Next Fiscal Year. London, Feb. 22.-The naval estimates for 1909-1901 total £27,522,600, an Increase of £928,ice, providing for an increase of 220 officers and 4,000 men for new ships. It is proposed to build two new battleships, six first-class cruisers, a second-class cruiser, two twincrew sloops, two gunboats and two torpedo boats. Of the 168 destroyers, the turbiner Viper's preliminary trial reached thirty-five knots. Exhaustive experiments will be made with her, as great importance attaches to

her novel system of propulsion. The Marconi system of wireless telegraphy was tried in the naval maneuvers. and proved very successful. As long as only one ship was signaling signals were successful for sixty miles. Negotiations successful for sixty miles. Negotiations are in progress between the Government A later dispatch to the same paper, dated | and Mr. Marconi, but the terms are not di

The arrangements in connection with the coaling of the fleet have received special consideration, and steps will be taken to increase the reserve stocks at certain coaling stations. Experiments are in progress with the object of selecting a patent fuel suitable as a reserve for the more distanstations. Efforts will also be made to se-cure local coni at the colonial stations when it is shown that it is sultable in quality

The rate of supply of propelling machinery and armor, it is explained, is the sole cause of delay in the work projected last year, and though the platemakers have doubled their capacity, they are still un-able to keep up with orders. Negotiations, arge parties with wagons are treking west-ward.

ciass protected cruisers, a third-class cruiser, cight sloops, two gunboars, four torpedo

"It is assumed that the Free Staters are boats and twenty-one torpedo-boat destroy-